

ARGUMENTS/REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-10 are currently pending in the Application. Claims 1, 4, and 8 are independent. Claims 8-10 have been added and claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 have been amended. Reconsideration of the Application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Drawings

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that the proposed drawing correction filed on April 18, 2003, has been approved.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103

Claims 1, 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Ragland, Jr., and claims 3 and 6-7 stand rejected over Ragland, Jr. in view of Horiuchi. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Applicant's claimed invention recites that the supporting part (i.e. portion for supporting the shadow mask 30) in the main frame 21 has a single radius of curvature before compressing the main frame 21, for applying an elastic force to the shadow mask 30 when the shadow mask 30 is supported thereon, that is, after the elastic force is removed. Therefore, after compressing the main frame 21, the supporting part in the main frame 21 does not have a single radius of curvature, but the radius of curvature of the supporting part is

varied from the center toward both ends of the main frame 21 so that the supporting part in the main frame 21 has an inflection point at the peripheral portion thereof, thus increasing the contact force of the damper wire 21 at the periphery of the shadow mask 30 for improving the anti-howling characteristic of the shadow mask 30.

On the contrary, Ragland fails to disclose at least the feature providing that the supporting part in the main frame 21 has a single radius of curvature before compressing the main frame 21 during the process for assembling the shadow mask 30 and the supporting frame 20, and the supporting part in the main frame 21 has an inflection point at the peripheral portion thereof after compressing the main frame 21 during the process for assembling the shadow mask 30 and the supporting frame 20.

The Examiner asserts that Ragland discloses that the frame in Fig. 1 has a single radius of curvature. However, Ragland does not teach a radius of curvature for the portion supporting the shadow mask in the first members 42 and 44, which appear to correspond to the main frame 21 of the claimed invention. Even if Ragland is assumed to disclose the frame having a single radius of curvature, as the Examiner asserted, Ragland merely discloses the frame having a single radius of curvature in the case that the shadow mask and the frame are assembled (i.e. after compressing the frame).

As described above, the Applicant's claimed invention is patentably different from Ragland, and the Applicant's claimed invention improves over Ragland.

In particular, Ragland does not disclose wherein a curvature of each one of said portions for supporting satisfies the equation $\Delta R / R = 0.95 \sim 1.05$ before the first and second main frames are compressed for supporting the shadow mask, as recited in independent claim 1, as amended, or wherein the portions for supporting in the first frames have a single radius of curvature before the first frames are compressed, for applying an elastic force to the shadow mask and supporting the shadow mask, as recited in independent claim 4, as amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these art grounds of rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 5-7 depend, either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 4, and therefore are allowable based on their dependence from claims 1 and 4, which are believed to be allowable. Allowance of claims 3 and 5-7 is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 9 and 10

Claims 8, 9 and 10 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. Independent claim 8 recites combination of elements in a frame for supporting a tension-type shadow mask of a color CRT, including each of the portions for

supporting in the first frames has inflection points where the curvature of the portions for supporting is varied at peripheral portions thereof after the first frames are compressed, for supporting the shadow mask. Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 8 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Ragland.

Claims 9 and 10 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 8, and are therefore allowable based on their dependence from claim 8, which is believed to be allowable.

Consideration and allowance of claims 8-10 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

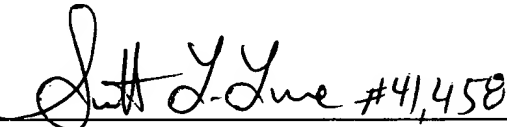
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Percy L. Square, Registration No. 51,084, at (703) 205-8034, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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